

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1330

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 837

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, MU, JO

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF JORDANIAN SPECIAL FORCES BATTALION
FROM OMAN

REF: AMMAN 4911 (NOTAL)

1. IN JULY 22 CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN ZAWAWI, I RAISED
SUBJECT OF ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL OF JORDANIAN SPECIAL FORCES
BATTALION. I ASKED ZAWAWI IF THOSE FORCES WOULD BE REPLACED
BY OTHERS COMING FROM IRAN OR FROM WITHIN SAF.

2. ZAWAWI LIKENED ANNOUNCED WITHDRAWAL TO HIS CONTROVERSIAL
OCTOBER 10, 1974 ANNOUNCEMENT RE WITHDRAWAL OF IRANIAN TROOPS.
HE SAID THAT INDEED PRESENT TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN BY END
OF SEPTEMBER, BUT WILL BE REPLACED IN APPROXIMATELY SAME
STRENGTH BY FURTHER FORCES COMING FROM JORDAN. ANNOUNCEMENT
DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT JORDANIANS HELPING OMAN BY SPECIFIC
AGREEMENT, AND THAT THEY WILL DEPART WHEN THEIR MISSION
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COMPLETED.

3. COMMENT: INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, ALONG WITH JORDANIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT DISCUSSED IN REFTEL, ALL PRESUME A DEFINITIVE WITHDRAWAL. A STRICT READING OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE DOES NOT, PRECLUDE A REPLACEMENT BATTALION. FONMIN ZAWAWI PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS DURING KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT VISIT. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE LITTLE REASON FOR DISSIMULATION IN HIS COMMENTS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. HOWEVER, AS WE HAVE NOTED IN PAST, ZAWAWI DOES NOT APPEAR TO PAY PARTICULARLY CLOSE ATTENTION TO OPERATIONAL SIDE OF DHOFAR CAMPAIGN, SO WE HAVE SOME RESERVATION ABOUT HIS VERSION OF PLANS FOR JORDANIAN INVOLVEMENT.
ZWEIFEL

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